

Appl. No. 09/896,039  
Amendment dated October 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed July 1, 2005

Solaris, etc.), and a method of extracting this information will be readily apparent to a person skilled in the art upon review of the appropriate documentation for such system.

*At Page 14, please replace the paragraph starting at line 10 and ending at line 24 with the following amended paragraph:*

Job server 408 further comprises a group of synchronization agents 418 that are periodically instantiated to detect the presence of added or deleted external users on the enterprise network, as well as added, deleted, or changed external groups on the enterprise network. As indicated in FIG. 4, different synchronization agents 422 are required depending on the type of the external domain directory structure being examined (e.g., NT™, LDAP™, ODBC™, NT, LDAP, ODBC, etc.). In accordance with a preferred embodiment, when a synchronization agents detects new or changed external user or group information, it automatically populates the user profile table, group profile table, and group membership table with the new information. As will be apparent from the descriptions *infra*, these new users and/or groups are automatically accommodated during subsequent importations of security settings associated with imported objects, unless optional custom security settings are desired. When optional custom security settings are desired, the portal administrator may instantiate an easy-to-use administrative interface for updating information in the portal database 424 used to map external security information into corporate portal security information, in a manner to be described *infra*.